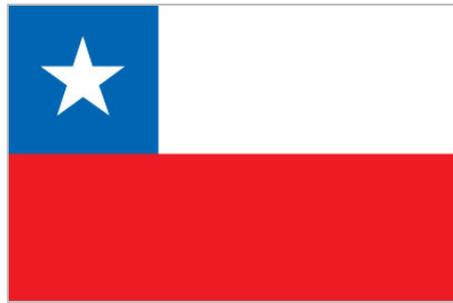




CHILE



INTRODUCTION

Prior to the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century, the Inca ruled northern Chile for nearly a century while an indigenous people, the Mapuche, inhabited central and southern Chile. Although Chile declared its independence in 1810, it did not achieve decisive victory over the Spanish until 1818. Chile has increasingly assumed regional and international leadership roles befitting its status as a stable, democratic nation.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President Sebastian PINERA Echenique

Head of Government

President Sebastian PINERA Echenique

Government Type

presidential republic

Capital

Santiago

Legislature

bicameral National Congress or Congreso Nacional consists of the Senate or Senado (43 seats) and the Chamber of Deputies or Camara de Diputados (155 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 756,102 sq km
Land: 743,812 sq km
Water: 12,290 sq km

Climate

temperate; desert in north; Mediterranean in central region; cool and damp in south

Natural Resources

copper, timber, iron ore, nitrates, precious metals, molybdenum, hydropower

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

export-driven economy; leading copper producer; though hit by COVID-19, fairly quick rebound from increased liquidity and rapid vaccine rollouts; decreasing poverty but still lingering inequality; public debt rising but still manageable; recent political violence has had negative economic consequences

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$445.9 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$23,300 (2020 est.)

Industries - copper, lithium, other minerals, foodstuffs, fish processing, iron and steel, wood/wood products, transport equipment, cement, textiles

Agricultural products - grapes, apples, wheat, sugar beets, milk, potatoes, tomatoes, maize, poultry, pork

Exports \$79.8 billion (2020 est.)

copper, wood pulp, fish fillets, pitted fruits, wine (2019)

partners: China 32%, US 14%, Japan 9%, South Korea 7% (2019)

Imports \$66.43 billion (2020 est.)

refined and crude petroleum, cars, broadcasting equipment, delivery trucks (2019)

partners: China 24%, US 20%, Brazil 8%, Germany 5%, Argentina 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

18.3 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.68% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

White and non-Indigenous 88.9%, Mapuche 9.1%, Aymara 0.7%, other indigenous groups 1%, unspecified 0.3% (2012 est.)

Language

Spanish 99.5% (official), English 10.2%, indigenous 1%, other 2.3%, unspecified 0.2%¹ (2012 est.)

Religion

Roman Catholic 66.7%, Evangelical or Protestant 16.4%, Jehovah's Witness 1%, other 3.4%, none 11.5%, unspecified 1.1% (2012 est.)

